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The CIA Turns Radio Sponsor

The American public may have become too jaded by previous Central Intelligence Agency antics to get very excited about anything new uncovered about its freewheeling operations. Few seem surprised by disclosures by US Sen. Clifford Case, R-NJ, that Radio Free Europe has had most of its bills paid over the last 20 years, not by the private sponsors claimed for it, but the CIA, which has been using Radio Free Europe and the lesser known Radio Liberty as propaganda arms promoting an independent foreign policy.

Yet, besides showing another reason for Congress to take a far less permissive attitude towards the CIA and clip its wings when it assumes policy-making powers, Case's disclosures also point up the declining role of the US State Department. Many of the basic policy decisions which should be developed by the department are being made outside its halls by the Defense Department, the CIA,

the White House staff and even the US Information Agency.

An extensive study by the New York Times makes it clear the department itself must bear a large share of the blame for its continuing decline. Its decision-making machinery moves ponderously when it moves at all. The department often fails to respond to problems in time to do any good. Under both Democratic and Republican presidents, other governmental organizations prove all too eager to move into the vacuum created by the State Department's inability to act.

This results in a confusion of efforts to develop a coherent, unified policy. It hides the responsibility for decisions. Most dangerous of all, it gives undue power to the military establishment and the CIA's cloak-and-dagger bureaucrats. The best way to counteract this ominous trend is intensify efforts to revitalize the State Department and turn it into an effective organization again.